

Forage and Livestock eNews

Updates and information from across the industry

July 18, 2017 - Vol 9, Issue 7

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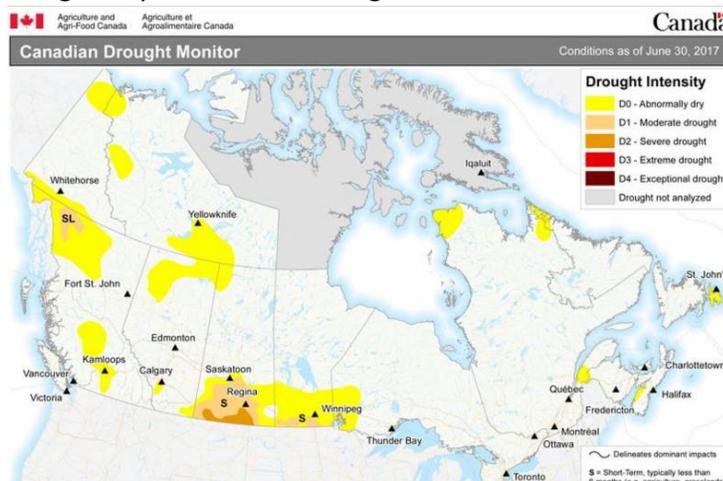
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Greetings!

July is here and some areas are feeling the heat! Saskatchewan producers have experienced a tough and early summer, with difficult weather conditions. The Canadian Drought Monitor describes abnormally dry conditions in a pocket along the north eastern border of Alberta extending out to Davy Lake; and a large pocket encompassing most of the southern half of the province including Kindersley, Saskatoon, and Melville but excluding Moosomin and surrounding area. Moderate drought in a large pocket in the south extending from Rosetown and Watrous to the United States border and severe drought in a small area along the United States border including Coronach, Rosefield, Wilcox, and Tribune. View the drought monitor maps on the [AAFC website](#). Visit us on Twitter [@saskforage](#) or [Facebook](#) and let us know how the forages in your area are faring.



Drought Map as of June 30, 2017

Source: Canadian Drought Monitor, AAFC

Read on for livestock water quality info, events, surveys,

scholarships and awards and more about Saskatchewan's forage industry.

Please feel free to forward the *eNews* on to others you think may be interested in forage and livestock industry updates -signing up is as easy as clicking the 'Join Our Mailing List!' on the left.

Your *Forage and Livestock eNews*
Editor,
Laura Hoimyr

Saskatchewan Forage Council looks forward to summer events

By: Tara Mulhern Davidson and Laura Hoimyr, SFC Communications

Saskatchewan Pasture Tour - August 3, Foam Lake

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) and partners invite you to attend the annual Saskatchewan Pasture Tour on Thursday, August 3. This year the tour will be in the Foam Lake area, and participants will meet at the Foam Lake Community Centre at 8:00am and depart shortly after.



The tour will cover topics including intensive grazing management, solar water systems, annual crops for winter grazing, diverse cover crops, and bale grazing. There will also be sessions on plant identification, range health assessment, and invasive weed control. A conversation surrounding community pasture transitions is also included on the agenda.

"With so many dynamic changes in the forage and grassland sectors in the province, including the transition of community pastures to patron groups, this tour will be a good opportunity for participants to share ideas and network with researchers, producers, and forage innovators," said Dave Kerr, President of the SFC. "We are also at a bit of a crossroads regarding farm stewardship programs," mentioned Kerr, who added that potential future funding opportunities will also be discussed at the tour. "Events like this annual pasture tour are always a valuable occasion to meet other forage stakeholders and build ideas that keep our forage industry a sustainable and solid part of the agricultural landscape in Saskatchewan," Kerr concluded.

Organizing committee for the pasture tour include Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, the University of Saskatchewan, the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Forage Council. The cost of the tour is \$80 and the event concludes with supper at the Foam Lake Community Center at 5:00pm. View the poster and registration form here:

<http://www.saskforage.ca/images/pdfs/Events/2017-SPT-Agenda-Registration.pdf> or contact the SFC at 306.329.3116 or office@saskforage.ca for more information.

Diverse Cover Crop Field Day and SFC AGM - August 16, Mervin

Join the Saskatchewan Forage Council and Saskatchewan Agriculture for a day of information about the integration of diverse cover crops and livestock. If you're thinking of trying a diverse cover crop blend, you likely have questions about species selection, seeding rates, timing and the best way to graze or feed these crops. Attend this event to hear from producers and researchers who are exploring ways to improve soil, crop and livestock health by increasing cover and diversity in the field.

This day will begin at Hope Hall in Mervin at 10:30 AM and will include speakers and a tour of a diverse cover crop site. Learn about the latest cover crop research, winter feeding options,

perennial forage programs, species selection and more.

The day will wrap up with the **SFC AGM** at 4 PM and is open for everyone to attend. Join us to learn about SFC activities followed by the **2017 Forage Industry Innovation Award**. The Forage Award is presented annually to acknowledge exemplary innovation, leadership, service and stewardship in Saskatchewan's forage industry by producers, land managers, agency staff and researchers. Know someone deserving of the award? Learn more or nominate someone by August 2 on the SFC website: <http://www.saskforage.ca/index.php/about-us/forage-award.html>

This year the SFC Board of Directors are proposing three amendments to the bylaws:

- 2.03 Membership Fees (a) Each application for membership must be accompanied by a fee of \$25.00. Change to: Each application must be accompanied by a lifetime membership fee of \$25.00.

- 3.06 Fees (a) The Board of Directors will set the amount of annual dues on a yearly basis.
(b) Each member or patron who uses the facilities of the Co-operative will be required to pay a fee for services, the amount of which shall be fixed by the directors yearly. Fees under the provisions of this bylaw may not be refundable, except at the discretion of the directors. They may be used for any purpose of the Co-operative. Delete 3.06

- 6.04 Quorum The quorum necessary for the transaction of business by the directors at any board meeting shall be a majority. Change to: The quorum necessary for the transaction of business by the directors at any board meeting shall be a majority of all board members.

If you are interested in letting your name stand for this year's SFC board elections or would like more information please contact office@saskforage.ca.

Cost to attend the day is \$20, and includes lunch. View the event poster here:

<http://www.saskforage.ca/images/pdfs/Events/Mervin-DCCFD-2017.pdf>. To register contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1.866.457.2377.

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2017 Saskatchewan TESA Recipients

The Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada and MNP recognize excellence in environmental stewardship in the ranching industry and honour innovative and successful approaches to environmentally and economically sustainable cattle production with the TESA award. The award gives the cattle industry an opportunity to showcase its commitment to conservation and gives producers to share their knowledge and ideas.

The 2017 Saskatchewan TESA recipients are Mark and Laura Hoimyr of Box H Land & Livestock from Gladmar. Extending the grazing season sustainably, and improving soil health are two priorities at Box H Land & Livestock. Based in the brown soil zone in southern Saskatchewan, the ranch is situated on the southwest boundary of the Missouri Coteau landscape, in the Gladmar area. The ranch is primarily a livestock operation, made up of native mixed grass prairie, tame forages and annual cropland that is planted to forages.

This family run operation involves Mark and Laura's two children Anna and Jeremy, and Mark's parents. They have been working to extend the grazing season to reduce wintering costs. With careful planning, they have managed to convert much of the marginal farmland to perennial forages, which has helped conserve soil and build organic matter for improved water infiltration and soil productivity.



Read the full article and learn more about the

other provincial TESA winners [here](#).

Mark and Laura, Anna and Jeremy Hoimyr,
Box H Land & Livestock

Image Credit: Lunde Photography

Recipients of the Saskatchewan TESA award also qualify for the national TESA award, presented by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. This year's National TESA presentation will take place at the Canadian Beef Industry Conference in August.

Learn more about about the award on the [Saskatchewan Stockgrowers](#) website or the [Canadian Cattlemen's Association website](#).

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Forage Crop Research Tour and Barbecue

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission (SFSDC)

Please mark your calendar for the annual Forage Crop Research Tour and Barbecue on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm, located 2.5 km south of Melfort SK on Highway #6.

The tour is hosted by SFSDC, the Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF), AAFC and Saskatchewan Agriculture. There is no charge.

NARF, located at AAFC Melfort, has been home to many forage seed and forage crop research projects over the past 4 years. This year's tour will feature one of the sites of the Saskatchewan Forage Variety Demonstration and Testing System that includes varieties of: hybrid, meadow and smooth brome grass; crested wheat grass; Festulolium; tall fescue; Timothy; alfalfa; cicer milkvetch and sainfoin.

Highlights:

- Forage Crop Variety Trial
- Hay and Pasture Forage Crop Demonstrations
- Cicer Milkvetch in Forage Mixtures
- Alternate Row / Companion Crop Planting
- Direct Seeding vs. Pre-Seed Tillage in Forage Seed Establishment
- Lesser Clover Leaf Weevil in Red Clover
- Herbicide Tolerance
- Plant Growth Regulator Evaluation

The plot tours will be from 1:30 to 4:30 PM with the barbecue at 4:30 PM. It will be an excellent opportunity to look at the forage crop research at the Melfort station and to visit with fellow forage crop and forage seed producers. Please bring your friends and neighbours!!

If you would like to pre-register, phone Saskatchewan Agriculture's Tisdale Office at 306-878-8842, or register on-site at 1:15 PM.

For more information:
Saskatchewan Agriculture Tisdale Office: 306-878-8842

SFSDC: www.skforageseeddc.com or sfsdc05@gmail.com or (306) 789-1958

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*Forage Crop Research Tour 2016
Source: SFSDC*

SARM Student Scholarship

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (S.A.R.M.) Student Scholarship in Agricultural Safety and Rural Health

In 1995, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (S.A.R.M.) auctioned off the first copy of their history book, "The Building of a Province: Commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities." This auction netted the sum of \$2,600 which the S.A.R.M. Board of Directors contributed to the Centre for Agricultural Medicine. These funds initiated the "Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities 90th Anniversary \$1,000 Student Scholarship in Agricultural Safety and Rural Health." The CCHSA's Founding Chairs Program maintains the scholarship. Starting in 2013-2014 school year we will be offering 2 \$1500 Student Scholarships.

If you are a Saskatchewan grade 12 student with a farming background planning on pursuing post-secondary education in Saskatchewan, check out the application guidelines to be sure you are eligible, and consider applying for this scholarship!

Read more at <http://aghealth.usask.ca/scholarship/index.php>

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CFGA Conference November 14-16, 2017



8th Annual CFGA Conference

November 14-16, 2017, Delta Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre, Guelph, ON

*Next Generation Forage
Cropping Systems:
Profit Above, Wealth Below*

For a reduced rate register by the early bird deadline: September 29, 2017

Student poster deadline: September 15, 2017

The conference organizing committee invites the submission of 300-word abstracts of student poster presentations addressing topics pertinent to the conference.

CFGA Leadership Award nominations are due by October 1, 2017

The CFGA is very pleased that New Holland is once again the corporate sponsor of the prestigious CFGA Leadership Award. This award recognizes individuals, groups or organizations that exemplify or enhance the goals of the CFGA and whose leadership in the forage and grassland sector has impact of national and/or international significance.

Learn more on the [CFGA website](#).

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Client Satisfaction Survey: Business Risk Management Programs

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in collaboration with provincial partners, has launched an online survey seeking producers' input on the level of satisfaction with our Business Risk Management (BRM) programs (AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriInsurance, and Advance Payments Program). The survey is intended to be completed by producers who have applied to these programs in recent years and focuses on their experience with them.

Results from this survey will help us understand client expectations and improve BRM program delivery services.

The anonymous survey will be available until July 31, 2017 and will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

[To complete the BRM Client Satisfaction Survey click here.](#)

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Saskatchewan Conservation Connection

Ducks Unlimited Canada - Summer Newsletter 2017

The Saskatchewan Conservation Connection is a Saskatchewan Ducks Unlimited publication, which is available to anyone who would like to receive it! Read the summer edition to learn about FlexFarm, a program which provides a financial incentive for farmers to partner with DUC to conserve wetlands and riparian areas. The publication also includes reports on restoration, securement, work with industry and government, a project spotlight and much more!

To download a pdf of the newsletter, visit:
<http://www.saskforage.ca/images/pdfs/Publications/SK-Conservation-Connection.pdf>

To start receiving your own copy of the newsletters, send a request to du_regina@ducks.ca and make sure to include your email address.

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Which Frog Do You Need to Eat?

By: Rachel Kraynick, BSA, PAg, Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Farm Business Management Specialist, Yorkton

June 2017

Mark Twain once said that if the first thing you do each morning is eat a live frog, you can go through the day with the satisfaction of knowing that it is probably the worst thing that is going to happen to you all day long.

Your "frog" is the biggest, most important task you are most likely to procrastinate on if you don't do something about it. Twain also said if you have to eat two frogs, eat the biggest, juiciest one first. In other words, if you have two important tasks to do, start with the bigger task first. And above all else, if you have to eat a live frog, it doesn't pay to sit and look at it for a very long time. So don't wait and don't procrastinate. Just start!

These words of wisdom couldn't be more accurate when it comes to your farm business management skills. What important things are you putting off that need your attention? Here are the top four "Frogs" I see in terms of farm business management:

Succession Planning

If you are part of a multi-generational family, do you have a solid plan in place to transfer the farm to the next generation? Have you initiated the conversation with your family members as to when you want to retire? How can this transition plan occur in a financially viable way? Do you have a current will? What about contingency plans to enable continued farm management under unforeseen circumstances? Do you know how you will deal with the non-farming children? Do

you know how to value sweat equity?

Even though these conversations can be tough or emotionally charged, they need to happen sooner than later. Finding the right tools and resources to help you address these issues are priceless.

Financial Management

When it comes to money, everyone's priority is different. You may have good intentions to start paying down debt, to start saving for your retirement or to gain a solid understanding of your financial situation, yet you never do.

Having a financial management plan in place will not only mitigate financial disasters, but it can help to make purchasing decisions based on your financial situation and not on emotion or gut feeling. i.e.: Should you purchase more land because it is part of your business strategy and your operation can afford to? Or are you doing it because "you may not get this chance again" even though it sets you back more than you can afford? Realize that bigger may not be better, but better is better. Knowing your financial situation when making decisions will prevent you from biting off more than you can chew.

[Read More](#)

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Livestock Water Quality

Livestock water quality is a serious concern in times of drought and the recent loss of cattle in southern Saskatchewan has reminded those in the livestock industry of the importance of water testing. We have compiled water quality information, articles and links to labs here.

[Livestock Water Quality](#) from Saskatchewan Agriculture describes the parameters that affect water quality, how to interpret water quality results, some options for dealing with poor quality water, and more.

[Identify and Treat Algae Accordingly to Protect Your Livestock](#) by Alicia Sopatyk and Jenifer Heyden of Saskatchewan Agriculture discusses cyanobacteria (blue green algae) and how to identify, manage and treat this potential water quality issue.

[Livestock Water Quality: A Field Guide for Cattle, Horses, Poultry and Swine](#), Andrew A. Olkowski, is a comprehensive pdf guide to water quality produced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatchewan Agriculture and the University of Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Agriculture provides a list of water and feed testing labs. [Click here to view the full listing.](#)

Staff in the Ministry of Agriculture Regional Offices can assist with interpretation of water test results, and provide information on management options.



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Saskatchewan Forage Council Featured Project...

[Demonstration of AC Yellowhead Persistence and Performance in Saskatchewan Forage Stands](#)

Completed: March 31, 2017

"Purple blossom alfalfa produced higher yields than AC Yellowhead alfalfa at all three sites (Smeaton, Yorkton and Rosetown), with the exception of the Smeaton site in 2016 (year three). Comparing forage production in the year after establishment, AC Yellowhead alfalfa yields were 66% of purple-flowered alfalfa yields at Yorkton, 92% of purple-flowered alfalfa yields at Rosetown and 60% of purple-flowered alfalfa yields at Smeaton, or an overall average of approximately 73% of purple-flowered alfalfa yields at all sites. AC Yellowhead alfalfa production at the Smeaton site in year three was 156% of the purple-flowered yields."

This project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement. Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Forage Specialists and Ducks Unlimited partnered on this project to oversee the demonstration sites.

To read a summary of the project, visit: <http://www.saskbeef.com/research-blog/ac-yellowhead-saskatchewan-forage-stand-demonstration>

To view the Saskatchewan Forage Council's completed projects, [click here](#).

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Upcoming Events

Ag in Motion

July 18-20, 2017

Saskatoon, SK

Ag in Motion is the largest agricultural trade show in Western Canada that provides an outdoor venue for progressive farmers that want to see and feel the latest agricultural innovations - all in one place. Now in its third year, Ag in Motion brings innovation to the field through interactive exhibits and live field and crop plot demonstrations. The Expo was created to empower farmers

by providing the knowledge they need to make informed decisions. Traditionally a crop-related trade show, Ag in Motion now has livestock demo days which include livestock and forage speaker series.

[Click here](#) for a link to the pdf of the events. For more information and to buy tickets visit the website: <https://aginmotion.ca/>

Native Prairie Speaker Series - July

July 24, 2017

via Webinar

The July Native Prairie Speaker Series from Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) features Kylie Garchinski of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. This month's topic is The Nature Conservancy of Canada: Prioritizing Conservation in Saskatchewan. Webinar is scheduled for noon on July 24th. Registration is free and everyone is welcome to tune in.

To register, [click here](#). View the event poster here: http://www.pcap-sk.org/rsu_docs/documents/july-webinar-poster--1-.pdf

2017 Forage Seed Summer Field Tour and BBQ

July 27, 2017

Melfort, SK

This year's forage seed research Field Tour and Barbecue will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm, located 2.5 km south of Melfort SK on Highway #6. The tour will be hosted by SFSDC, the Northeast Agriculture Research Foundation (NARF), AAFC and Saskatchewan Agriculture. There is no charge. Register on-site at 1:15 PM with plots tours from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. A barbecue will follow at 4:30 PM. This will be an excellent opportunity to look at the forage crop research being done at the Melfort station and to visit with fellow forage seed producers.

To learn more visit the [SFSDC website](#). View the poster [here](#).

Saskatchewan Pasture Tour

August 3, 2017

Foam Lake area, SK

The Saskatchewan Pasture Tour is scheduled for August 3, 2017, this annual event is a great opportunity to get out and connect with forage and livestock producers and to see innovative ways to manage forages. Tour highlights include impact of intensive grazing, solar watering systems, annual crop winter grazing, diverse cover crops, plant ID, establishing grass on alfalfa and more. Registration deadline is July 27th due to limited seating.

View the poster and registration form [here](#) or contact the SFC at office@saskforage.ca for more information.

SFC AGM & Diverse Cover Crop Field Day

August 16, 2017

Mervin, SK

The SFC annual general meeting will be held in partnership with a Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Diverse Cover Crop Field Day on August 16, 2017. This day focuses on integrating diverse cover crops with livestock and topics include research on diverse cover crops, winter feeding options and cow nutrition, tour of diverse cover crop site and more. The day ends with the SFC AGM at 4pm. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch.

Nominations for the 2017 Forage Innovation Award are open until August 2! [Click here](#) to learn more about the award and to download the nomination form.

To view the poster, [click here](#). To register, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1.866.457.2377.

Canadian Beef Industry Conference

August 15-17, 2017

Calgary, AB

Registration for the 2nd Annual Canadian Beef Industry Conference opens April 3, 2017. This year's theme is "Sharing Common Ground". Event will take place at the BMO Conference Centre in Calgary, Alberta. All beef industry stakeholders share a common goal of taking steps to enhance the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of the various sectors within the industry. Supporting the National Beef Strategy, the conference provides a forum for industry engagement and learning opportunities across the beef supply chain. To learn more, visit the [Canadian Beef Industry Conference Website](#).

Native Prairie Speaker Series - August

August 22, 2017

via Webinar

The August Native Prairie Speaker Series from Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) features Laura Griffin of the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area. This month's topic is Engaging Communities in Nocturnal Conservation: Why Nocturnal Preserves are needed in Canada. Webinar is scheduled for noon on August 22. Registration is free and everyone is welcome to tune in.

[Register here](#). View the event poster here: http://www.pcap-sk.org/rsu_docs/documents/laura-griffin-webinar-poster--1-.pdf

8th Annual CFGA Conference

November 14-16, 2017

Guelph, ON

The 8th Annual Canadian Forage & Grasslands Association Conference will be held in Guelph at the Delta Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre. This year's conference theme is Next Generation Forage Cropping Systems: Profit Above, Wealth Below. For more information visit the website <http://canadianfga.ca/conference/> or contact Elizabeth Muckle-Jeffs, Conference Coordinator: North America Toll-Free: 1-800-868-8776, Local: 613-732-7068 or email conference@canadianfga.ca. To register online, [click here](#).

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing

December 5-7, 2017

Edmonton, AB

Save the date for two great conferences in one! The Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing theme this December will be Profit Above, Wealth Below. Speakers includes soil health practitioner Gabe Brown, Richard Teague, Jim Gerrish, Dr. Allen Williams and more!

To learn more visit www.absoilgrazing.com or view the [poster](#).

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Saskatchewan Forage Council Membership

Be Sure Your Voice in the Forage Industry Counts!

- Incorporated under *The Co-operatives Act*, a membership fee for the SFC is a one-time cost of \$25.00;
- The SFC has worked in the province on behalf of **ALL** forage industry stakeholders (and that's a very extensive and diverse group) for more than 20 years;
- If you are involved with production, management, protection, harvesting, storage, utilization or marketing of forage products, the SFC wants your involvement and input;
- The SFC is committed to placing a focus and awareness on the importance of forages in our province.

The SFC at a glance...

With a mandate to enhance the province's forage and grassland industry, the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) strives to partner with all sectors of the industry - producers, industry organizations and companies, government and university.



Formed in 1988, our objectives are focused on the development and dissemination of information related to the production and utilization of all forage resources, prioritization of forage research and collaboration with governments to develop and implement effective policies and programs as they relate to forage production and marketing.

To learn more about becoming a member [Click Here](#).

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We welcome questions about article submission or to find out more about sponsorship, please contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at:

Email: office@saskforage.ca

Phone: 306.329.3116

The Saskatchewan Forage Council Gratefully Acknowledges funding for our 'Facilitating Forage Initiatives in Saskatchewan' project through the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Industry Development Fund:



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